

Message Text

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ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CU-04 NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-12

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 RSR-01 /083 W

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FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1828

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 0862

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, WB, GE

SUBJECT: WORLD YOUTH FESTIVAL

REF: BERLIN 687; STATE 70768

1. MISSION HAS BEEN INFORMED BY BRITISH SOURCE THAT EAST GERMANS INTEND TO PREVENT PARTICIPANTS IN WORLD YOUTH FESTIVAL FROM VISITING WEST BERLIN WHILE FESTIVAL IN PROGRESS THROUGH SIMPLE DEVICE OF TEMPORARILY LIFTING THEIR PASSPORTS. ACCORDING TO THIS REPORT, PARTICIPANTS WILL BE REQUIRED TO SURRENDER PASSPORTS WHEN THEY REGISTER UPON ARRIVAL IN EAST BERLIN, AT WHICH TIME THEY WILL BE ISSUED FESTIVAL ID CARD THAT WILL NOT, OF COURSE, BE VALID FOR EXIT PURPOSES.

2. SHOULD THIS REPORT PROVE CORRECT, SCOPE FOR SPECIAL CULTURAL EVENTS IN WEST BERLIN DURING FESTIVAL (BERLIN 687, STATE 70768, AND PREVIOUS) WOULD BE SEVERELY LIMITED. WHEREAS MANY WESTERNERS MIGHT BALK AT HANDING OVER PASSPORTS UPON REGISTRATION, PARTICIPANTS FROM DEVELOPING NATIONS- OUR PROJECTED TARGET AUDIENCE- WOULD BE MORE LIKELY TO COMPLY WITH THIS PROCEDURE WITHOUT QUESTIONING AND THEREBY DEPRIVE THEMSELVES OF FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT WITHIN BERLIN.

3. COMMENT: WE WOULD NOT WANT TO EXCLUDE POSSIBILITY
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THAT THIS REPORT MAY HAVE ORIGINATED IN RUMOR DELIBERATELY
PLANTED BY EAST GERMANS FOR PURPOSE OF DISSUADING POSSIBLE
PROGRAMMING OF COUNTER ATTRACTIONS IN WEST BERLIN DURING
FESTIVAL, AND THAT NO SUCH LIFTING OF PASSPORTS MAY
ACTUALLY OCCUR. HOWEVER, IT IS A MATTER THAT REQUIRE
CHECKING. IF IT TURNS OUT TO BE TRUE, WE PROBABLY WILL
HAVE TO REVAMP OUR THINKING ABOUT THE PROPOSALS NOW UNDER
CONSIDERATION. KLEIN

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NMAFVVZCZ

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